

and be the battleground, perhaps embroiling the entire region, but certainly wiping out and causing great death and destruction in their own country. So we do have a new direction.

Now, some are pushing a resolution that challenges the President's implementation of the plan. We are trying to be generals and say General Petraeus—whom we just confirmed unanimously because he is such a great general, who said we should have those 21,000 troops—they are challenging his military judgment in the implementation of the plan.

I know many of my colleagues have followed military policy for many years, but I do not think we in this body can determine for the generals what the proper level of troop commitments is. They are the ones who take responsibility for the lives of their men and women. To send a message by adopting a resolution that says we oppose the President's plan, implementation of his plan, is not going to change sending more American troops there.

But it will tell al-Qaida: Good news, boys, the Congress is opposing the President. Our chances look better to take over the country.

And it will send a message to friendly countries that are trying to help the Iraqis telling them: Sorry guys, we are not interested in winning this, so you probably would not want to waste your effort helping us.

Finally, what does it send as a message to our troops: We do not support the military plan they are being asked to carry out, the men and women who are risking their lives? Does that make any sense? I fear not.

I hope we can reject very soundly the Levin-Warner amendment and adopt the Gregg amendment and also the McCain amendment.

REMEMBERING LIEUTENANT GENERAL CHARLES M. KIEFNER

Mr. BOND. Now, Mr. President, let me turn to another matter, a matter of sorrow. I tell this body that at a wonderful military ceremony last Saturday, we laid to rest LTG Charles M. Kiefner, formerly Adjutant General of the Missouri National Guard—a man who I considered a friend for almost 40 years, a man whose career was an amazing one.

I called on him to serve as my Adjutant General for the 8 years I served as Governor. Having come from the Guard, he was the youngest Adjutant General at the time, still by far the youngest Adjutant General in Missouri. But he knew the citizen soldiers who made up the Guard. He knew those citizen soldiers and respected them, and they respected him.

When I left office and Governor Ashcroft took over, he made him his Adjutant General for the next 8 years. He served 16 years. In that time, he not only built the Missouri National Guard to be one of the finest units—Air and

Army National Guard—in America, but he was very strong in establishing a Guard presence on Capitol Hill.

It was at his urging that I went to my colleague, Wendell Ford of Kentucky, and we set up the National Guard Caucus, on which today Senator PAT LEAHY and I proudly serve as co-chairmen. That caucus has brought together 75 to 80 Members of this body to stand up for the necessary resources, the necessary personnel, and the necessary support of the Guard when active forces in the Pentagon tend to overlook them.

The Guard is a better place today because of the leadership that General Kiefner showed as he headed the National Guard, the Adjutants General Association, as he worked with his colleagues throughout the country, and as he and those generals worked to make sure the Guard was strengthened.

The Guard remembers him with great fondness. Lieutenant General Vaughn of Missouri, who had served in the Guard under General Kiefner, presented the flag to his wonderful wife Marilyn, his sons John and Keith.

Charles M. Kiefner was born June 28, 1930, in Cape Girardeau, MO. He graduated from high school in 1948 and attended Westminster College in Fulton. He earned his bachelor of arts degree from Columbia College in 1975.

General M. Kiefner, or Charlie to his friends—and I am lucky to have counted myself as one of his many—was a great man and a great American patriot. Under his strong leadership, including as the youngest Adjutant General, the men and women in the Missouri National Guard came to exemplify the best this country has to offer.

Having begun his military career by enlisting as a private in Company F, 140th Infantry Regiment of the Missouri Army National Guard on September 24, 1947, General Kiefner entered active duty on September 11, 1950, with the 175th Military Police Battalion of Missouri Army National Guard and served in Germany with that unit. He was commissioned a second lieutenant, Infantry on December 21, 1951. He served as platoon leader, company commander, battalion motor officer, Battalion S-2, brigade adjutant and S-3, executive officer and logistics officer on the staff of the Adjutant General. As a member of the U.S. Army Reserve, from September 11, 1978, to November 5, 1980, he served as liaison officer to the U.S. Military Academy, West Point.

General Kiefner was first appointed Adjutant General by me on May 8, 1973, when I served as Missouri's Governor, and held the Adjutant General's position until March 1977, when I left the Governor's office. Upon my reelection in 1981, I once again called on this great leader and appointed General Kiefner to lead the Missouri National Guard. General Kiefner served as Adjutant General throughout my two terms as Missouri Governor. As a testament to his skill and great leadership, he

was later called upon by Governor John Ashcroft to serve 8 more years in the Ashcroft administration.

General Kiefner not only served Missouri admirably, he also served his nation with honor. A friend who knew him for 35 years during his service in the Guard recalls:

He was a professional soldier who made a point to know what was going on at every level of the Guard, from the enlisted soldiers to the three star Generals. He knew precisely what the threat to our homeland was and made great efforts to ensure the Guard was prepared to protect us from those threats.

Members of the Army National Guard knew and respected General Kiefner and called upon him to serve as president of the National Guard Association of the United States, a position he held proudly and worked diligently to enhance our Nation's modern-day minutemen's and women's ability to meet their dual-mission at home and abroad.

Upon his retirement from the National Guard in 1993, Major General Kiefner was promoted to the grade of lieutenant general, Missouri National Guard Retired List by Governor Mel Carnahan. "At his own retirement he could not speak because he knew the overwhelming emotion he would feel at leaving the service he loved so dearly would overcome him," said one friend and colleague. "He was an emotional man that was totally committed to his country, Missourians, and the men under his command."

His many decorations and awards include: the Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit with Oak Leaf Cluster, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Air Force Commendation Medal, Good Conduct Medal, Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal, Department of Defense Identification Badge, Ranger Tab, NGB Distinguished Service Medal, NGAUS Distinguished Service Medal, Missouri Meritorious Service Medal, Missouri Conspicuous Service Medal, Indiana Distinguished Service Medal, Minnesota Distinguished Service Medal, Tennessee Distinguished Service Medal, Minnesota Medal for Merit, 1992 Distinguished Alumni Award—Westminster College, Field Artillery Association Order of Saint Barbara, Army Engineers Association Silver Order of the de Fleury Medal, and the Sons of the American Revolution Silver Good Citizenship Award.

Charlie understood the great citizen soldiers who signed up for the Guard. When he gave them an order they knew he understood them and they were willing to follow.

I have lost a great friend, not just a former Adjutant General. There have been many fine individuals who have worn the uniform of our Nation's Army National Guard, but none more proudly than LTG Charles M. Kiefner.

Mr. President, I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECESS

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that under the previous order the Senate stand in recess until the appointed hour.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered. The Senate will stand in recess until the appointed hour.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 12:22 p.m., recessed until 3:30 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mrs. MURRAY).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California is recognized.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mrs. BOXER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that during the time controlled by the Democrats this afternoon, the following be recognized to speak for up to 10 minutes each, except where noted, and that each side alternate when appropriate: BOXER, MURRAY, DODD, 15 minutes; KERRY, 15 minutes; NELSON of Florida, REED, HARKIN, and WHITEHOUSE.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. MCCASKILL). Without objection, it is so ordered.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

CALIFORNIA CASUALTIES FROM IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN

Mrs. BOXER. Madam President, today I rise to pay tribute to 37 young Americans who have been killed in Iraq since November 17, 2006. This brings to 677 the number of soldiers who were either from California or based in California that have been killed while serving our country in Iraq. This represents 22 percent of all U.S. deaths in Iraq.

SFC Tung M. Nguyen, 38, died on November 14, in Baghdad, Iraq, of injuries sustained from small arms fire. Sergeant First Class Nguyen was assigned to B Company, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Special Forces Group, Fort Bragg, NC. He was from Tracy, CA.

LCpl Jeromy D. West, 20, died November 25, while conducting combat operations in Al Anbar province, Iraq. Lance Corporal West was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, Kaneohe Bay, HI. He was from Aguanga, CA.

Cpl Dustin J. Libby, 22, died December 6, while conducting combat operations in Al Anbar province, Iraq. Corporal Libby was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, 1st

Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, CA.

SPC Micah S. Gifford, 27, died of injuries suffered when an improvised explosive device detonated near his unit while on patrol during combat operations in Baghdad, Iraq, on December 7. Specialist Gifford was assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 509th Infantry Regiment, Airborne, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, Fort Richardson, AK. He was from Redding, CA.

MAJ Megan M. McClung, 34, died December 6, while supporting combat operations in Al Anbar province, Iraq. Major McClung was assigned to I Marine Expeditionary Force Headquarters Group, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, CA.

SPC Nicholas P. Steinbacher, 22, died on December 10, in Baghdad, Iraq, when an improvised explosive device detonated near his military vehicle. Specialist Steinbacher was assigned to B Company, 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, TX. He was from La Crescenta, CA.

LCpl Clinton J. Miller, 23, died December 11, while conducting combat operations in Al Anbar province, Iraq. Lance Corporal Miller was assigned to Marine Wing Support Squadron 373, Marine Wing Support Group 37, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Marine Corps Air Station, Miramar, CA.

Cpl Matthew V. Dillon, 25, died December 11, while conducting combat operations in Al Anbar province, Iraq. Corporal Dillon was assigned to Marine Wing Support Squadron 373, Marine Wing Support Group 37, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Marine Corps Air Station, Miramar, CA.

LCpl Budd M. Cote, 21, died December 11, while conducting combat operations in Al Anbar province, Iraq. Lance Corporal Cote was assigned to Marine Wing Support Squadron 373, Marine Wing Support Group 37, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Marine Corps Air Station, Miramar, CA.

MSgt Brian P. McNulty, 39, died December 11, when the CH-53 helicopter he was riding in crashed just after takeoff in Al Anbar province, Iraq. Master Sergeant McNulty was assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Twentynine Palms, CA.

CPT Kevin M. Kryst, 27, died December 18, from wounds received while conducting combat operations in Al Anbar province, Iraq. Captain Kryst was assigned to Marine Light-Attack Helicopter Squadron 267, Marine Aircraft Group 39, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, CA.

LCpl Nicklas J. Palmer, 19, died December 16, while conducting combat operations in Al Anbar province, Iraq. Lance Corporal Palmer was assigned to

the 1st Combat Engineer Battalion, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, CA.

LCpl Luke C. Yepsen, 20, died December 14, due to injuries suffered from enemy action in Al Anbar Province, Iraq. Lance Corporal Yepsen was assigned to the 1st Tank Battalion, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Twentynine Palms, CA.

Cpl Joshua D. Pickard, 20, died December 19, while conducting combat operations in Al Anbar province, Iraq. Corporal Pickard was assigned to the 2nd Assault Amphibian Battalion, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Lejeune, NC. He was from Merced, CA.

LCpl Ryan L. Mayhan, 25, died December 21, while conducting combat operations in Al Anbar province, Iraq. Lance Corporal Mayhan was assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Twentynine Palms, CA. He was from Hawthorne, CA.

LCpl Ryan J. Burgess, 21, died December 21, while conducting combat operations in Al Anbar province, Iraq. Lance Corporal Burgess was assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Twentynine Palms, CA.

Hospitalman Kyle A. Nolen, 21, died December 21, in Al Anbar Province, Iraq, as a result of enemy action. Hospitalman Nolen was assigned to H Company, 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Division, Regimental Combat Team 7, I Marine Expeditionary Force Forward, Twentynine Palms, CA.

LCpl Fernando S. Tamayo, 19, died December 21, while conducting combat operations in Al Anbar province, Iraq. Lance Corporal Tamayo was assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Twentynine Palms, CA. He was from Fontana, CA.

SPC Elias Elias, 27, died December 23, in Baghdad, Iraq, of wounds suffered when an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle while on patrol. Specialist Elias was assigned to the 3rd Squadron, 61st Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, Fort Carson, CO. He was from Glendora, CA.

SPC Michael J. Crutchfield, 21, died December 23, in Balad, Iraq, of a non-combat related injury. Specialist Crutchfield was assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 4th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, Fort Bragg, NC. He was from Stockton, CA.

SGT Lawrence J. Carter, 25, died December 29, in Baghdad, Iraq, of wounds sustained when an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle during combat operations. Sergeant Carter was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, Schweinfurt, Germany. He was from Rancho Cucamonga, CA.

SPC Luis G. Ayala, 21, died December 28, in Taji, Iraq, of wounds suffered